

3. Mind Map: Equations of Motion

Equations of Motion

Basic Equations

$$v = v_0 + at$$

$$x - x_0 = v_0t + (1/2)at^2$$

Additional Equations

$$v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a(x - x_0)$$

$$x - x_0 = (1/2)(v_0 + v)t$$

$$x - x_0 = vt - (1/2)at^2$$

$$S_n = v_0 + (a / 2)(2n - 1)$$

For motion in a straight line: vertical (gravity), horizontal or at an angle

v_0 = initial velocity
 v = final velocity
 x_0 = initial position
 x = final position
 a = acceleration
 t = time of travel
 S_n = displacement in nth second

Motion under gravity

(1) Acts as constant acceleration: 9.8 m/s^2 downward (2) Always taken as negative (-9.8 m/s^2) in equations, indicating downward direction. (3) Hence a vector

(assuming a sign convention that takes downward as -ve)

Velocity increases by 9.8 m/s every second under free fall.

Equations

Maximum height:	$H = v_0^2 / (2g)$
Time for max. height	$t = v_0 / g$
	$t = \sqrt{(2H / g)}$
Height after t sec. fall:	$h' = H - (1/2)gt^2$
Distance fallen:	$h = 1/2gt^2$
Ratio of distances, successive sec.:	$1^2 : 2^2 : 3^2 \dots$
Displacement in nth sec:	$h_n = (g / 2)(2n - 1)$
Velocity on return:	$-v_0$
Velocity just before ground impact:	$v = \sqrt{2gH}$

1. Use ground level as reference ($y = 0$)
2. Ensure correct sign conventions for direction
3. Acceleration due to gravity is active when the object reaches top of the flight

1. Sketch motion diagrams, indicating initial and final positions, velocities, and accelerations to better understand the problem.
2. Solve Algebraically Before Substituting Values: Manipulate equations symbolically to isolate the desired variable before plugging in numerical values.